

It respectfully is submitted however that the present invention, as embodied by the newly presented claims, patentably distinguishes over such references for the following reasons.

As discussed in considerable detail in the present specification, the present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for gasifying combustibles. The present invention particularly involves the gasification of combustibles in a fluidized bed furnace including a combustion region wherein combustibles F are gasified. The combustion region includes the fluidized bed 10. In further accordance with the present invention, there is provided a heat recovery region 59 that recovers heat generated during the gasification within the combustion region.

As discussed in the present specification, it is contemplated that the method and apparatus of the present invention is employable for combusting combustibles that are in the form of various wastes that are not homogeneous material. As a result, the wastes periodically gasified, not being homogeneous, will have a nonuniform calorific value. When gasifying wastes of such varying composition, the heat resulting will vary accordingly. As a result, the heat recovered in the heat recovery region 59 will vary. Also, the composition of component 29 discharged from the fluidized-bed furnace will vary.

All of these variations are not desirable for various reasons discussed in detail in the present specification.

A basic aspect of the present invention is controlling a rate of recovery of heat recovered in the heat recovery region 59. This is set forth in the broadest aspects of the present invention in new independent claims 11 and 21. It respectfully is submitted that this feature of the present invention is not disclosed or suggested by the above references.

Hirayama does not disclose controlling the rate of recovery of an operation of recovering heat in a heat recovery region. Further, it is submitted that the above Japanese references do not disclose such feature. Indeed, such references are directed to boilers. In a boiler the temperature in the furnace inevitably becomes high due to complete combustion of materials in the furnace. High temperature steam is recovered by utilizing the thus created high temperature. There would be no purpose in a boiler of removing excessive heat to maintain constant a gasification temperature.

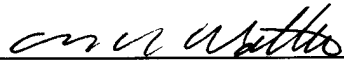
Accordingly, it is submitted that the above references fail to disclose or suggest this fundamental aspect of the present invention.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the newly presented claims patentably distinguish over the above references.

The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue. In the event however that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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